eco-development plan to garner funds for global environment facility;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a similar proposal for GEF was rejected in 1992;

(c) if so, what were the reasons of its rejection ; and

(d) what are the new facts of the present proposal for GEF with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The Ministry is drawing up a practical and comprehensive Plan to pose projects under the GEF.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Pollution created by Bihar Caustic and Chemicals Limited

5603. SHRI RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar Caustic and Chemicals Limited, situated in Palamu district of Bihar, has floated all the existing provisions on environmental protection;

(b) whether it is a fact that it is polluting the land, water and air through the regular discharge of sodium hydroxide, leakage of chlorine, release of hydrochloric acid vapours in the air an dumping of mercury waste in the ground, thereby affecting health of the people in the area; and

(c) if so, what steps, if any, Government intend to take to ensure the compliance with enviornmental regulation to save the ecology and people of Palamu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Bihar State Pollution Control Board has reported that as per its directions, necessary pollution control measures have been taken by the unit, and that presently there is no significant pollution problem. The Bihar Board has also reported that BCCL have first stage and second stage hypo towers for absorption of chlorine. Any hydro-chloric acid in the effluent is removed by neutralization. Such escaping of HCL in the effluent has been very much reduced by improving the plan operation. Mercury sludge is stored in pucca pit which is bottom sealed to avoid any seepage or percolation in the ground water.

(c) Does not arise.

Denotification of Dandeli sanctuary in Karnataka

5604. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :
SHRI RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIORNMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dandeli Game Sanctuary in the Dakshina Karada district of Karnataka has been denotified and its area reduced;

(b) whether Government are aware that such a step will lead to deforestation in the name of collecting dead wood; and

(c) if so, what steps, if any, are being taken by Government to prevent the illegal felling of trees in the denotified area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) It is reported by the Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka that a proposal for reduction of the area of the Dandeli

Wildlife Sanctuary is under submission to the Govt. of Karnataka but the final orders are yet to be issued.

(b) No, Sir. Collection of dead wood for the bonafied requirements of the local people as such do not lead to deforestation.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up a special Haj Cell

5605. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a special Haj Cell;

(b) if so, what is its composition and the activity for the last three years alongwith the assistance/ facilities offered to Haj Pilgrims in India and aborad; and

(c) whether the Haj pilgrims this year are being discriminated when Air India is not orgranising flights for them and the difference in services and cost involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes Sir. There is a Haj Cell in the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) The Haj Cell has an Officer on Special Duty, a Section Officer, two Assistants and a clerk. Its strength and facilities are augmented during the Haj season. There is a joint Secretary in charge of the Haj Cell whose activities are overseen by Secretary and at the Ministerial-level.

Haj Cell is the nodal point in the Government of India for coordinating all arrangements for Haj. It liaises with the Central and State Haj Committees, various Ministries of the Government of India like Civil Aviation, Surface Transport, Home Affairs and Finance, and our Missions in Saudi Arabia for making arrangements for the Haj pilgrims.

Assistance and facilities offered to pilgrims include fixation of Haj quota, release of foreign exchange, carriage of pilgrims by air/sea, accommodation in the two holy cities in Suadi Arabia, pre-departure immigration/health formalities, work connected with the Haj Goodwill Delegation, despatch of Building Renting Delegation and Building Selection Team, medical/administrative contingents to Saudi Arabia, supply of medicines for the benefit of pilgrims, despatch of Khuddamul-Hujjaj (Haj volunteers) from various states and review of the arrangements with a view to improving facilities and services.

(c) No, Sir.

There is no discrimination against Haj pilgrims. Air charters are being organised by Air India which is unable to provide them on its own without disruption of its own flights due to capacity constraints. The charter services are upto acceptable international standards.

The cost of the charter is not fully passed on to the pilgrims. For Haj 1994, as against charter cost of Rs. 17,000/- per pilgrim the Haj fare has been fixed at Rs. 12000/-.

Treaty signed between India and Bhutan

5606. SHRI RATNA BHADUR RAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(s) what are the details of the treaty signed between India and Bhutan in 1949;

(b) whether any other agreements were signed between the two countries; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS) : SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) The text of peace and freindship treaty between India and Bhutan of 8th August, 1949